

I believe it is essential to maintain (at the very least a minimal) Morse code requirement for amateur radio licensing. This simplest and most basic form of radio communication is a skill which should not be lost! It is, often times, the only mode which can get through under marginal conditions. Emergency communications is still a basic part of the amateur service. While the requirements may be loosened (but not abandoned) for licensing, it should still be promoted as a most worthwhile asset and its proficiency should be rewarded to further that. In a day and age when we depend so much on sophisticated equipment we cannot forget and leave ourselves unprotected, unskilled, and totally reliant upon them. We did not and will not stop teaching how to manually solve basic arithmetic problems to our children simply because we know they'll be using calculators most of their lives--the analogy is clear.